

FIR 317/09066 (73)

1-195

No helicopter
incidents involving
PW/MIA personnel
in area reported
by source

Only at
last in
vicinity was
an O2A on 27
72 piloted
by David
Boyer
return

COUNTRY

CAMBODIA

DOI

JUNE OR JULY 1970

SUBJECT

SIGHTING OF TWO U.S. HELICOPTER PERSONNEL KILLED
ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE CRASH SITE IN SVAY RIENG PROVINCE,
CAMBODIA.

AGO

VIETNAM, SAIGON (4 JUNE 1973)

SOURCE

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 20 Aug 1998

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~~NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~

~~CONTROLLED DISSEM~~

[REDACTED]

1. AT ABOUT 1000 HOURS ONE DAY IN LATE JUNE OR EARLY JULY 1970, [REDACTED] OBSERVED A HELICOPTER - A CLEAR PLASTIC BUBBLE TYPE - BEING SHOT DOWN IN CAMBODIA NEAR WT772171 BY THE 271ST ROUTE SECURITY COMPANY (271ST COMPANY), X-16 TRANSPORTATION BATTALION, VIET CONG MILITARY REGION 2 (VC MR-2). THE HELICOPTER WAS IN THE PROCESS OF ATTACKING THE AREA WITH OTHER HELICOPTERS - ANOTHER SIMILAR AND TWO "COBRA" GUNSHIPS, AND ONE "COMMAND" HELICOPTER. [REDACTED] TAM IDENTIFIED A PICTURE OF A U.S. UH1B HELICOPTER AS SIMILAR TO THE "COMMAND" HELICOPTER HE SAW.) THE OTHER AIRCRAFT REMAINED IN THE AREA AND CONTINUED THE ATTACK AFTER THE HELICOPTER

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HAS DOWNED. A FEW DAYS LATER, [REDACTED] LEARNED FROM [REDACTED] THAT THE OTHER HELICOPTER SIMILAR IN APPEARANCE HAD ALSO BEEN HIT AND CRASHED NEAR BAY THUOC CANAL (VC CANAL 28), TUYEN BINH DISTRICT, KIEN TUONG PROVINCE, SVN.

2. [REDACTED]

VC MR-2, SITUATED 100 METERS FROM THE CRASH SITE (WT772171) OBSERVED TWO U.S. PERSONNEL FLEEING THEIR BURNING HELICOPTER. ONE WAS KILLED IN A CROSSFIRE ABOUT SIX METERS FROM THE AIRCRAFT. THE OTHER WAS FOUND HIDING IN A STREAM ABOUT 50 METERS FROM THE AIRCRAFT AND WAS SHOT AND KILLED AS HE ATTEMPTED TO FIRE ON [REDACTED] AND A SQUAD LEADER OF THE 271ST COMPANY. THAT EVENING PERSONNEL OF THE 271ST COMPANY CARRIED BOTH BODIES BY BOAT DOWNSTREAM TO WT778174, NEAR A ROAD ABOUT 450 METERS FROM THE CRASH SITE, WHERE THEY INTENDED TO BURY THEM. BEFORE THEY COULD, HOWEVER, SOME KHMER INSURGENTS (KI) PERSONNEL INTERVENED, CLAIMING THEY HAD SHOT DOWN THE HELICOPTER AND THAT THE BODIES BELONGED TO THEM. AS THE AREA WAS UNDER TERRITORIAL CONTROL OF THE KI, THE 271ST COMPANY SURRENDERED THE BODIES, AND AT ABOUT 1800 HOURS THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE KI CARRIED THE BODIES

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AWAY IN AN OXCART.

3. ABOUT AN HOUR AFTER THE CRASH, [REDACTED] OBSERVED, AT CLOSE RANGE, THE BODY OF THE MAN KILLED IN CROSSFIRE. HE WAS CAUCASIAN, ABOUT 40 YEARS OLD, ABOUT 1.80 METERS TALL, WEIGHED ABOUT 75 KILOS, HAD LONG BLACK HAIR, A ROUND FACE AND WORE A GREEN FLIGHT SUIT. [REDACTED] LEARNED A FEW DAYS LATER [REDACTED] THAT THE MAN HAD BEEN WEARING A WRIST WATCH WITH A GOLD BAND AND THAT IT HAD BEEN STOLEN BY A VIETNAMESE CIVILIAN WHO LIVED NEAR THE CRASH SITE.

4. THE OTHER CASUALTY WAS ALSO CAUCASIAN, ABOUT 43 YEARS OLD, ABOUT 1.80 METERS TALL, WEIGHT ABOUT 80 KILOS, HE HAD A ROUND FACE, HIGH, WRINKLED FOREHEAD, WAS BALD, WORE A GREEN FLIGHT SUIT AND A WRIST WATCH WITH A SQUARE, BLACK FACE, ARROW-TYPE HANDS, AND A WHITE WRISTBAND. HE WAS ARMED WITH A 45-CALIBER PISTOL AND HAD ABOUT US\$30 IN ONE-DOLLAR-DENOMINATION MILITARY PAYMENT CERTIFICATES AND A NUMBER OF PAPERS IN HIS WALLET. [REDACTED] WAS SHOWN THE ALBUM OF PRISONERS OF WAR AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA BUT WAS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY EITHER OF THE TWO MEN.)

5. (FIELD COMMENT: THE FOLLOWING IS THE JOINT CASUALTY)

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RESOLUTION CENTER (JCRC) EVALUATION OF THE REPORT: JCRC FILES
SEARCHED AND NO CORRELATION CAN BE ESTABLISHED.)

6. FIELD DISSEM: DEFENSE ATTACHE FOR JCRC REPRESENTATIVE
IN SAIGON: SENT TO CINCPAC (FOR CINCPAC AND POLAD ONLY) USSAG
AND VIENTIANE (FOR JCRC REPRESENTATIVE ONLY) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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